

My Week

by R. J. Deachman

A few days ago the Calgary Albertan carried a nice little story on barber shops. Men have long since ceased to worry about shaving. They leave that to Mr. Gillette and continue to shave themselves. There is an economic base for these things—we live in a changing world. There are so many avenues that now demand our cash that we must save some point. Certainly if a man wants to buy an automobile at present prices, and thousands do, he must be a man with a high income or he must practise a good deal of economy in other lines of effort.

This story in the Albertan gave me a touch of nostalgia. I remember at least one barber shop in Calgary. I was somewhere near the centre of the block between Centre and 1st Street West on the North side of the street. I can close my eyes and see the faces of all the barbers who worked there then. I imagine that some have long since passed away. I remember too a great many of the customers I used to meet and the happy times I spent with them. If that shop is still running I will blow myself to a hair cut, leave Mr. Gillette to perform the balance of my toilet, the next time I am in Calgary.

I wonder if Stalin is laughing at his sleeve? Sometimes I think he is but perhaps that's not quite right for I can't imagine Stalin doing that. I think he indulges in a deep throaty chuckle when he is alone and begins to figure on how busy he is keeping the allies on the West front while his subterranean legions thunder on through the east and then beyond. Communism is moving through China and Indo-China and the islands of the Pacific. It

may even be making progress in India. So long as density of population battles against diminishing means of sustenance these people will be willing to accept almost anything if it promises food, even if it does nothing but promise. The trouble is that the land and natural resources of India, China and the far East is incapable of providing the nutriment to maintain sound minds and healthy bodies. These countries just naturally go Communist and at the moment no one offers a solution to the problem.

This reminds me of another strange thing about Russia. It must have been about sixty years ago, an old tramp used to turn up at our house once or twice a winter and always on Saturday night. He referred to himself as a traveller but sold nothing, he was a tramp. He was quite an intelligent man, a bit of a ventriloquist and could do slight of hand tricks but the man subject of his talks was Russia and the menace of Russia to the British Empire. He represented it as continuously pushing forward, striving for the ultimate conquest of the whole world. The name of this tramp was Shells. I remember his name down through the years. If his ghost could only look back over that long lapse of more than half a century he would be able to gather fresh inspiration for his talks about Russia, the menace of the world. He may have been right.

A clip in the United States claims that climatic variation is responsible for most of the things that happen in his world. Wars it seems start in hot dry seasons. When precipitation is abundant and the air is cooler people walk the ways of peace. He or one of his associates has studied the weather changes through the rings of the Sequoia trees of Calif-

ornia. These are rare old trees. There is evidence to show that some of them started growing 1350 years before the birth of Christ. They are now well over 3000 years of age. If they could only speak to us what a story they could tell. This man who has studied them tells a story the trees have revealed to him. Through these rings he has marked the weather changes which have taken place through long periods of time. The growth of the rings designate the wet years and the hot ones right through the centuries. Then he has linked up the story told by the rings with the story from the pages of history and from it he deduces that we have been less belligerent in cold wet weather than in hot dry periods.

All of which makes me hope for an increase in precipitation over the long period of years so that I shall not see the coming of the next war.

SOLO LOW LAUDS SCOUTING

The Hon. Solon E. Low, M.P., Leader of the Social Credit Party of Canada has sent the following message to the Boy Scouts Association:

"Over many years of working with boys I have observed that those with Boy Scout Training are almost invariably self-reliant and quite able to exercise initiative to a high degree. These qualities are fundamental to the pioneering spirit without which the present, and coming generation will not be able successfully to develop Canada into the great country that she can be.

"As the father of three sons, and on the occasion of its fortieth anniversary, I wish to extend to the Boy Scout Association of Canada my own personal thanks and congratulations for the great work it has done over the years in helping our boys to grow up into four-square Canadian Citizens."

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